



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

East Palo Alto, CA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of East Palo Alto was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. East Palo Alto (population 29,506) is a low-income community in California that is host to many environmentally compromised facilities used to support the high technology industry of Silicon Valley. The per capita income of this mostly minority community is one-third that of the county. The poverty and unemployment rates are 16.2 and nine percent, respectively, and 71 percent of adults over 25 did not graduate from high school. Cooley's Landing, targeted for assessment, served as the county dump for 25 years. It is adjacent to the 130-acre mixed agricultural, industrial, and commercial Ravenswood Industrial area, near auto wrecking yards, and adjacent to an arsenic-contaminated former rail spur right-of-



Assessment Grant

New
2005

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of East Palo Alto for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to perform a Phase II environmental site assessment, develop cleanup plans, and conduct a community health monitoring program at Cooley's Landing. An earlier assessment found scattered areas of hazardous substances, including metals, pesticides, and PCBs at the site. The property, once a thriving port, was the county dump from 1932 to 1957.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team

415-972-3188

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

Grant Recipient: City of East Palo Alto, CA
650-853-3122

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

way. Once this site is assessed, cleaned up, and restored, Cooley's Landing will be opened to the public as a passive recreational park with interpretive historical displays. As part of the Pacific Flyway, this marsh area provides food, shelter, and habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife and a crucial winter refuge for migratory birds. Restoration of the landing will create a sense of identity and pride for a community that has been stigmatized for many years, provide residents with direct access to San Francisco Bay, create a link between two other nature preserves, and revitalize the adjacent industrial area.